

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) ~~Novel~~ An isolated oligonucleotide primers having consisting essentially of a polynucleotide having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID No: NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 and or SEQ ID NO: 4 for amplification of the kinesin-related gene of *Leishmania* species.
2. (Currently amended) A method for detecting and differentiating visceral leishmaniasis (VL) and post kala-azar-dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL) causing strains of *Leishmania donovani* in a sample, ~~the said method comprising the steps of:~~
 - a) isolating DNA from a sample;
 - b) amplifying ~~the target region from a desired region of the DNA of~~ isolated in step (a) using novel oligonucleotide primers having consisting essentially of a polynucleotide having the nucleotides sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID No: NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4, and heat stable DNA polymerase, to obtain amplified fragments;
 - c) separating the amplified fragments ~~of~~ obtained in step (b) to obtain a separation pattern; and
 - d) ~~analyzing the fragments of step (c) to detecting and differentiateing VL and PKDL causing strains of *Leishmania donovani* based by observing differences in on the banding separation pattern of the amplified fragments.~~
3. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of claim 2, wherein in step (a) the sample is either a clinical sample or culture sample.
4. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of claim 3, wherein the clinical sample is selected from a group consisting of blood, bone marrow aspirate, bone marrow biopsy, splenic aspirate, splenic biopsy, liver aspirate, liver biopsy, lymph node aspirate, lymph node biopsy, skin ~~serappingscraping~~, slit biopsy and other tissue materials.

5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as ~~claimed in~~ of claim 2 wherein in step (b) the heat stable DNA polymerase is *Taq polymerase*.
6. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as ~~claimed in~~ of claim 2 wherein in step (b) the amplification is done by polymerase chain reaction.
7. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in 2 wherein in step (c) the separation is done ~~preferably~~ by gel electrophoresis.
8. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in 2 wherein in step (d) the detection is by ethidium bromide or other DNA stains.
9. (Currently amended) A diagnostic kit for detection and differentiation of VL and PKDL causing strains of the *Leishmania donovani*, comprising ~~of novel~~ oligonucleotide primers ~~having~~ consisting essentially of a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID No: NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 ~~and~~ or SEQ ID NO: 4, reaction buffer, *Taq polymerase*, a DNA marker, positive and negative control samples ~~and~~ and an instruction manual.
10. (Canceled)